NLWJC - Kagan DPC - Box 057 - Folder-008

Social Security - Nazis

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Dave Wagner to Darryl Blevins re: Freedom of Information Act request [partial] (1 page)	04/04/1997	P6/b(6)
001b. list	SSN (Partial) DOB (Partial) (1 page)	ca. 04/04/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records Domestic Policy Council Elena Kagan

OA/Box Number: 14370

FOLDER TITLE:

Social Security - Nazis

2009-1006-F

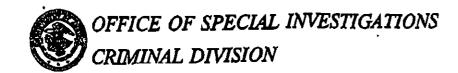
ke681

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
 - C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency |(b)(2) of the FOIA|
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy |(b)(6) of the FOIA|
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



TELEFAX

TRANSMITTED TO:	TELEPHONE (FAX #): 202-395-5730
NAME: Sandra Yamin	
ORGANIZATION:	
ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE/EXTENSION:
TRANSMITTED FROM	1: TELEPHONE: (202) 616-2491*
NAME: Susan L. Siegal, Pr	rincipal Deputy Director
ORGANIZATION: Office of	Special Investigations
BUILDING, ROOM #, etc. 1001 G Street, N.W., Suit	TELEPHONE/EXTENSION: (202) 616-2492
TRANSMISSION DATE:	PAGES TRANSMITTED:

(Do NOT count this cover sheet)

CONTENTS/MESSAGE:

The draft resolution anticipated in yesterday's OMB meeting is attached. We received it late yesterday from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (which received it from Rep. Franks' office).

Thanks for offering to fax this to the participants in yesterday's meeting.

THIS FACSIMILE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSES AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY SENDER IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE. THANK YOU.



The alfached was jost sent to us for comment. Your views ere much appreciated of an

105th CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. --



Calling on the United States Social Security Administration to revoke the social security benefits currently being paid to individuals involved in Nazi acts of persecution that have fled the United States to avoid deportation, extradition or prosecution by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

date, 1998

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION



Calling on the United States Social Security Administration to revoke the social security benefits being paid to individuals involved in Nazi acts of persecution that have fled the United States to avoid deportation, extradition or prosecution by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

Whereas more than 6 million Jews and millions of other Nazi victims of World War II were murdered in the Holocaust;

Whereas the Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI), was created by order of the Attorney General in 1979 to carry out all of the investigative and prosecutorial activities of the Department of Justice involving individuals who, in association with the Nazi government of Germany, its allies, and other affiliated governments, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person because of race, religion, national origin or political opinion between 1933 and 1945:

Whereas OSI is responsible for detecting, investigating and taking legal action to denaturalize and deport such individuals or prevent them from entering the United States;

Whereas since 1979 OSI investigations have led to the removal of 47 individuals involved in Nazi acts of persecution from the United States;

Whereas of these 47 individuals, OSI reached settlement agreements with (need #) in which they



allowed the individuals to leave the United States rather than face deportation or prosecution;

Whereas these (need #) individuals therefore continue to qualify for, and receive, social security benefits from the United States:

Whereas since 1979, the Social Security Administration has paid (need 5) in benefits to individuals involved in Nazi acts of persecution that have fled the United States;

Whereas these individuals were investigated by the OSI and found to have committed and participted in Nazi crimes against humanity, yet were allowed to leave the United States rather than be deported, therefore keeping their social security benefits;

Whereas it is an injustice to all Holocaust survivors living in the United States to know that Nazi war criminals were bargained with by the Department of Justice to leave the United States;

Whereas it is	All sugar
Whereas it is	DRAFT
Now, therefore, be it	-16

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is a sense of Congress that -

(1) the Social Security Administration should revoke the social security benefits of these (need #) suspected Nazi war criminals;

(2) the Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI), should cease from bargaining with suspected Nazi was criminals;

(3) the Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI), should authorize the Social Security Administration to suspend the social security benefits of any individual suspected of paticipating in Nazi was crimes who flees the United States



Social facurit Nazil



Do se need to do anything?

April 25, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO:

Bruce Reed

I think The message

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy line should be hu

Them to sit down with

SUBJECT:

Proposed Legislation Regarding Nazi War Criminals The Tenish crows

and figure our him to

I must convey to you in the strongest possible terms that we should proceed to introduce legislation that will deny Social Security benefits to all Nazi war criminals who are denaturalized on the basis of having participated in Nazi persecution. Currently, Nazi war criminals who have been denaturalized, but flee prior to the issuance of a final order of deportation, may continue to collect Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Justice staff have drafted corrective legislation. Such legislation should go forward without delay.

While some groups have contended that such legislation could complicate the Government's ability to track down and successfully prosecute Nazi war criminals in this country, I find that contention difficult to accept. The federal government must pursue denaturalization and deportation against Nazi war criminals without any reference to whether or not they should receive Social Security benefits. Social Security benefits cannot, and should not, be used as a bargaining tool.

The cruelest of ironies is the fact that, come August, SSA could be denying SSI benefits to legal immigrant Holocaust survivors while at the same time paying Social Security benefits to their Nazi tormentors.

I would respectfully request that we meet to discuss this issue as soon as possible. Please contact my office at 202-358-6000 to set up an appointment

John J. Callahan

Acting Commissioner

Social Security Administration



11450 GANDY BLVD. II ST. PRTERSBURG, FLORIDA 33702

April 4, 1997

Mr. Darryl Blevins
Freedom of Information Officer
Social Security Administration
Room A-3-6
Operations Building
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Dear Mr. Blevins:

Thank you for your help. I am a reporter for WTSP-TV in Tampa, Florida and I am seeking some information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

I know you are extremely busy and I don't want to be presumptious. However, I am wondering if this request could be expedited. I have a very strict deadline that I am trying to meet. Tom Marganess in the Social Security press office said he would notify you that I am sending this request and need the information quickly. I have also talked with Ethel Burrows in your office and Barry Powell, the Deputy Associate Commissioner for International Policy at the Social Security Administration. Mr. Powell is familiar with these individuals.

The following is a list of individuals who have left the United States either voluntarily or who've been deported. Some are dead, others are still alive. Some I have Social Security numbers for, others I don't. I am interested in obtaining Social Security information about the dead ones. *The first 14 names are the most important. If you could process those names first, I would greatly appreciate it.

The information I am seeking:

- 1. How much Social Security money did each person receive after leaving the United States?
- 2. Date of initial entitlement and date that payment was stopped
- 3. When did the person die?
- 4. What country was the individual living in outside the U.S.? (or where were the checks sent?)
- 5. Also, is it possible to find out the total dollar amount in Social Security payments that all living and dead people on this list have received since leaving the country?
- 6. Copy of original Social Security application, if available.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Dave Wagner to Darryl Blevins re: Freedom of Information Act request [partial] (1 page)	04/04/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records Domestic Policy Council Elena Kagan

OA/Box Number: 14370

FOLDER TITLE:

Social Security - Nazis

2009-1006-F ke681

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA|
 - C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes |(b)(7) of the FOIA|
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

I realize that the individuals who were deported, should not have received Social Security checks after leaving the country. However, many of these individuals left voluntarily and their benefits continued.

If there are any fees for searching for, or copying, the records I have requested, please supply the records without informing me if the fees do not exceed \$100.00. As you know, the Act permits you to reduce or waive the fees when the release of the information is considered as "primarily benefiting the public." I believe that this request fits that category and I therefore ask that you waive any fees.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call. My work telephone number is: 813-577-8474. My pager number is P6/(b)(6) if you need to reach me immediately.

in a final contract.

eringe de la ser Les 1908 de la ser Les 1908 de la ser

1. 24 1. 24

Again, I would appreciate your handling this request as quickly as possible, and I look forward to hearing from you within 10 working days, as the law stipulates.

Sincerely,

35733 H TEL. 613.677.1010 H FAX 618.578.7657

PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

MCDX 10,000 M BT.

ġ

.

Dave Wagner
Anchor/Reporter

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION	
001b. list	SSN (Partial) DOB (Partial) (1 page)	ca. 04/04/199'	P6/b(6)	

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records **Domestic Policy Council**

Elena Kagan

OA/Box Number: 14370

FOLDER TITLE:

Social Security - Nazis

2009-1006-F

ke681

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy ((a)(6) of the PRA]
 - C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS

41. Konrad Kaleja	P6/(b)(6)	
*2. Kazys Guzzauskas (don't h	nave his social security number)	P6/(b)(6)
al3. Alexander Schweidler,	P6/(b)(6)	
#4. Joseph (Juozas) Budreika	P6/(b)(6)	
345. Jurgis Juodis,	P6/(b)(6)	
	P6/(b)(6) It I want to know how much he receive the payments ended and when he died)	_
¥ 7. Anatoly Hrusitzky,	P6/(b)(6)	
¥8. Martin Bartesch,	P6/(b)(6)	
₩9. Josef Eckert,	P6/(b)(6)	
#10. Feodor Fedoresko	P6/(b)(6)	
¥11. Stefan Leili,	P6/(b)(6)	
¥ 12. Kari Limes	P6/(b)(6)	
#13. Vladimir Sokolov	P6/(b)(6)	
¥14. Josef Wieland	P6/(b)(6)	
15. Andrija Artukovic		
16. Jan Avdzej	31	
17. Bruno Karl Blach	13947.	
18. Anton Bless	. MBN	
19. Paul Bhrmei	. 5	
20. Jakob Denzinger		
21. Johann Hauher	9 - 1 1 - 1	

TO

- 22, Franz Hausberger
- 23. Lindas Kairys
- 24. Juris Kauls
- 25. Juozas Kizielītis
- 26. Serge Kowalchuk
- 27. Bohdan Koziy
- 28. Reinhold Kulle
- 29. Johann Laprich
- 30. Hans Lipschis
- 31. Boleslavs Maikovskis
- 32. Antanas Mineikis
- 33. Stefan Reger
- 34. Arthur L.H. Rudolph
- 35. Conrad Schellung
- 36. Michael Schmidt
- 37. Jozzef Szendi
- 38. George Theodorovich
- 39. Valerian Trifa
- 40. Chester Wojciechowski
- 41. Johann Ziegler
- 42. Martin Zultner
- 43. Juozas Grabauskus

TO

- 44. Peter Mineller
- 45. Mathias Denuel
- 46. Helmut Oberlander
- 47. Wistscheslaw Rydinskis
- 48. Wasyl Lytwyn

A MAN AND THE TOTAL CONTROL OF THE SECTION OF THE

49. Aleksandras Lileikis

FACT SHEET SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

Current Law and Policy

- Current policy is to remove Nazi war criminals from the U.S. and to deny them Social Security benefits. There is, however, a loophole under current law.
- Since the 1980's, the law has provided that Social Security benefits must be cut off when a final order of deportation is issued against an individual because that individual engaged in Nazi persecution or genocide. This provision of Social Security law is specifically for Nazi war criminals and provides for an earlier cut off than for other deportees, whose benefits are not cut off until they are actually deported.
- Of the 31 living Nazi war criminals who were eligible for Social Security benefits and who
 have left the United States, only 10 have lost benefits because of the Nazi war criminal
 provision in current Social Security law. SSA found other grounds to cut off benefits to
 two additional Nazi war criminals, but they could return to the Social Security rolls.
- As of March 15, 1997, 18 Nazi war criminals (almost 2/3) were being paid Social Security benefits. In addition, 1 Nazi war criminal was eligible, but was temporarily not in pay status on March 15 because he was suspended based on the erroneous information that a final order of deportation had, in fact, been issued.
- These individuals escaped the Nazi war criminal provision in current Social Security law because DOJ did not, or could not, get a final order of deportation. Some of these individuals fled before DOJ could act. Others left without a final order of deportation after having reached settlement agreements with DOJ's Office of Special Investigations.
- The operation of current law results in the U.S. taxpayers subsidizing the retirement of many Nazi war criminals, contrary to the policy that they not receive Social Security benefits.
- DOJ and SSA have been meeting over a period of several months. Both agencies have concluded that the result under current law is inappropriate and that current law concerning receipt of Social Security benefits by Nazi war criminals needs to be strengthened. The agencies have developed a legislative proposal.

Proposal

• DOJ and SSA propose that Social Security benefits be cut off when a federal court denaturalizes someone on the grounds that the person engaged in Nazi persecution. This is an earlier point in time than under current law. This proposal would cut off benefits of those who leave the U.S. before an order of deportation is issued, as well as those who attempt to stay in the U.S. by fighting an order of deportation.

Status

• On April 15, 1997, DOJ, SSA, DPC, OMB and White House Counsel's office met with:

Neal Scher, former head of OSI and representing the Assembly of Holocaust Survivors; and

Doug Blomfield, representing the World Jewish Congress (Edgar Bronfman).

- They said they would vigorously and publicly oppose the proposal. It is unclear what other Jewish organizations would do.
- They argued that while OSI is able to get final orders of deportation under current law (an act that terminates benefits), federal judges would delay and possibly not rule on denaturalization cases if the judges knew that a denaturalization ruling would terminate social security benefits. They believed that judges would view these cases more sympathetically than they do now. In addition, they stated it would be more difficult to get Nazi war criminals out of the U.S. after they had been denaturalized because they would be less likely to agree to leave (which under current law would allow them to keep their benefits) and more likely to fight deportation, because they had nothing left to lose.
- There has been media and Congressional interest. The <u>St. Petersburg Times</u> ran an op-ed last month critical of the current situation. The CBS affiliate in Tampa is doing a story. Cong. Bunning (R-KY), chair of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, has requested information about the St. Petersburg story.

4/15/97

SUMMARY OF STATUS OF NAZI CASES as of 3/15/97

Cases reported to SSA by DOJ

•	Final order of Deportation, Benefits suspended	10
•	Benefits suspended under other provisions of SSA	2
•	In Pay Status on 3/15/97	18
•	Eligible to be paid on 3/15/97	1
	SUBTOTAL: NAZIS ALIVE AND OUTSIDE THE U.S.	31
•	Deceased	13
•	No SSN, never got benefits	3
TOTA	${f L}$	47

4/15/97

Social security for war criminals

A German television network recently broke the startling news that thousands of Nazi war criminals are receiving "victim pensions" from the German government in addition to their normal civilian or military benefits.

The government explained that under the law, one thing has nothing to do with the other. The "victim" bonuses are paid regardless of other circumstances to anyone whose health was impaired during World War II, though not to war criminals who live abroad.

It's not just the Germans who are applying Teutonic logic to the benefit of some of history's worst criminals.

So does the United States. The beneficiaries are a handful of Nazi criminals who hid their past to come here and who are allowed to keep their Social Security benefits even after being stripped of their fraudulently obtained U.S. citizenship. Provided they leave voluntarily, without a formal court order to deport them, the benefits follow wherever they go.

"If they go quietly, we don't have any legal basis to take their Social Security because we don't have a court decision," explains Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations.

The loophole was left when Congress amended the Social Security law some years ago to strip benefits from deported war criminals.

"We terminated someone's benefits last month," Rosenbaum said in a telephone interview this week.

In that case, the suspect had gambled on due process, and lost. So have others, though Rosenbaum couldn't say precisely how many.

"We've removed 48 people from the United States," he said, "As far as I know, a minority of them have been able



MARTIN DYCKMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

to retain benefits."

The Justice Department appears to be taking advantage of the quirk in the law to get exposed Nazi criminals out of the country faster and at less expense to itself. The benefits become, in effect, part of a plea bargain.

"We're more interested in getting them out of the country," Rosenbaum conceded.

Social Security payment records are not public documents, so it would be impossible to say with certainty which of the expatriated war criminals are still beneficiaries. It is public record, however, that at least three accused war criminals who had lived on Florida's West Coast left for Europe in recent years without being formally deported, and would have kept whatever Social Security benefits they were receiving. These were Juozas "Joseph" Budreika, 79, formerly of Gulfport, who admitted having concealed his membership in a Nazi-controlled unit that murdered Jews en masse in Lithuania; Kazys Gimzauskas, 88, formerly of St. Pete Beach, who as an officer in the collaborationist Lithuanian police was responsible for arresting Jews to be killed by the Germans; and Alexander Scheidler, of Inverness, who had been an SS guard at the Mauthausen concentration camp.

The Social Security loophole has

been reported before, but so rarely that former Rep. Sam. Gibbons, who served 27 years on the House committee responsible for Social Security, says he had never heard of it.

It has been argued that the matter relates to only a few very old men who, after all, had paid taxes into the Social Security system while they lived here. But this logic does not bear up in the light of certain other facts.

- The U.S. now bars Social Security payments to native-born Americans who are in prison or in hospitals for the criminally insane, no matter how minor their crimes in comparison to Nazi genocide. Yet the prisoners paid their taxes, too, as did hundreds of thousands of law-abiding legal immigrants who are now being denied food stamps and other welfare benefits.
- Each of the self-deported Nazis almost surely had long since received back all the Social Security taxes ever paid by him and his employers. According to data published by the House Ways and Means Committee, those who retired in 1980 or before needed on average only 4.4 years to max out, and their benefits are now being funded by younger workers, many of whom will not live long enough to get all their payments back.

For exposed Nazi murderers to enjoy this largesse is outrageous, no matter how few of them there are or how old they happen to be. Age (or youth) was, after all, no defense for the millions of innocent people who were gassed, shot, clubbed or starved to death. That any of the people responsible have been allowed to live out their own lives in freedom is more mercy than any of them deserved. That American taxpayers should continue to subsidize them virtually defies belief.

Stephen C. Warnath () 04/16/97 01:11:50

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: SSA benefits and Nazi War Criminals

I held the meeting yesterday with the DOJ, SSA, Neal Sher, former head of DOJ's OSI and representing the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, and Doug Bloomfield, representing the World Jewish Congress & World Jewish Restitution Organization. Counsel's Office (Dawn), Public Liaison (Jay Footlik) and OMB (Melinda Haskins & Richard Green) also attended.

In summary, Messrs. Sher and Bloomfield presented a passionate argument that SSA's proposal will hurt prosecutions of Nazi war criminals. They want the status quo left alone and for SSA not to introduce its legislative proposal. They presented the argument that I outlined for you earlier: They deeply believe that some judges will act more sympathetically toward old men who were Nazis if they can argue that not only is the government trying to strip them of their citizenship, but the government is also impoverishing them while they are trying to defend their rights during the judicial process. They think that a single bad outcome in a case could have farreaching implications for other cases. They admit that it is impossible to accurately predict what judges may in fact do, but they hold the view with absolute conviction that this will hurt prosecutions.

Obviously, everyone in attendance agreed that we shared the objective of not wanting to do anything to compromise prosecutions of Nazis. SSA and DOJ explained how they engaged in interagency discussions to reach what they jointly view as a proposal that properly balances SSA's concern about "subsidizing the retirement of Nazis" with enforcement concerns. It is important to note that DOJ concedes that there remains some possible enforcement implications, but again, they believe that this proposal is an appropriate balancing of policy objectives.

In my follow-up with the White House attendees at the meeting, we agree that the specific enforcement concern depends on predictions on what judges may or may not do and therefore does not sound fully compelling EXCEPT that it is impossible to ignore who is raising the concern. These individuals are representatives of those who are the most concerned about and the most effected by this proposal. It gains us very little to close this SSA loophole if taking that action is decried in the strongest possible terms by the victims of those war criminals as undermining their prosecutions.

And make no mistake, Messrs. Sher and Bloomfield were absolutely clear that they and their organizations would protest vociforously. They would protest in the media, and they would protest in Congress. They would make sure that it is known that the President has introduced legislation that would compromise the prosecutions of Nazis.

On the other hand, they said that if SSA is criticized for making such payments they would engage in whatever steps were necessary to explain to the public, to Members of Congress, and to the media that SSA's policies were sound and that anyone promoting an alternative view would be hurting prosecutions. There is already at least one critical article that has appeared (St. Petersburg Times) and SSA has been contacted by a Tampa CBS affiliate for comment. I think that we can anticipate other critical pieces, and it may be picked up by the national press. Cong. Bunning (R-Ky), chair of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee has requested information

about the St. Petersburg story.

Given the foregoing considerations, I think that this is a very difficult issue, but I have to recommend to you that we provide guidance to SSA that the proposal should not go forward. Normally, I would give quite a bit of deference to Justice and SSA for the product of a solid interagency process. Nobody wants to provide benefits to Nazis, ESPECIALLY when some of their victims who are legal immigrants may face benefit cut-offs, but we cannot ignore the absolute conviction of those who we heard from who represent the victims when they say that the President will hinder the prosecutions of Nazis with this proposal.

Dawn agrees with this recommendation based upon her participation in the meeting. Public Liaison agrees.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks Elena.

BACKGROUND: The current law is that SSA benefits must be cut off when a final order of deprotation is issued agains an individual becuase that individual engaged in Nazi persecution or genocide. The loophole exists, for example, for a Nazi who flees the country without an order of deportation. Under those circumstances, SSA benefits would continue.

Of the 31 living Nazi war criminal who were eligible for Social Security benefits and who have left the United States, only 10 have lost benefits because of the Nazi war criminal provision in current Social Security law. As of March 15, 1997, 18 Nazi war criminals (almost 2/3) were being paid Social Security benefits. SSA found other grounds to cut off benefits to two additional Nazi war criminals, but they could return to the Social Security roles and the pay status of another one is temporarily suspended.

Stephen C. Warnath () 04/16/97 05:18:53

Record Type:

Record

To:

Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: SSA benefits and Nazi War Criminals

There is not a drop-dead deadline to drop a legislative proposal. However, the urgency of deciding arises because the subcommittee Chairman & staff who have been asking SSA as recently as yesterday where they are on solving the problem of Nazi's getting paid. SSA has been putting them off saying that they are continuing to work on the issue. There is a technical mark-up, but this proposal doesn't have to be a technical (in fact it may not be eligible to be a technical). It could be offered later as a stand-alone (or alternatively a member of Congress could offer a bill and we could support that if we chose to) so the 23rd is not magical, but SSA is feeling pressure to get back to the subcommittee Chair fairly promptly.

Also pressing is a media inquiry from the Tampa CBS affiliate that SSA has also been holding off for awhile. They want SSA to tell them what it's doing about the problem. SSA anticipates that this may be the beginning of a lot of bad press about how it provides money for the retirement of Nazis.

This is a no-win situation. We are either going to be criticized for paying retirement to Nazis or we will be criticized because at least several major Jewish organizations will charge us with compromising enforcement. There is going to be critical press whatever the decision is. The straight policy call is probably that we should be able to rely upon the Department of Justice to determine the appropriate enforcement assessment and what will or won't damage prosecutions. And DOJ says they have struck the right balance. However, I don't think that the policy determination can be completely divorced from an assessment of the political overlay on this issue.

Let me know how you want to proceed or if I can get you some more information. If you think it would be helpful, I could set up a meeting between these gentlemen and you (and whoever else you think should be invited) so that you can guage this directly for yourself.

Port ament? in rower raid.

Per ament? in rower raid.

And shalled as who aloue.

H. Wanis Manis - Bruing - w- 7. hr ham show wen dien bour it told this problem. buil back bound the sure of the 67' May.